

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): ~~An automated billing type~~ A video and information providing system with automated billing comprising:

a monitor ~~loaned to a user and~~ connected to a provider through a telecommunication ~~line~~ link via a server;

a signal receiving unit for receiving video signals for output to said monitor; and

a billing unit proximate to said monitor and said signal receiving unit for receiving a basis for payment from a user, for integrating Internet use time through of the telecommunication line link or projection time for which the video signals are projected on said monitor through said signal receiving unit, and for calculating a use charge based on a result of this integration,

wherein a user ~~pays~~ provides said basis for payment of the use charge ~~calculated by to~~ said billing unit and is thereby allowed to utilize the Internet through the telecommunication ~~line~~ link and to at least view the video signals on said monitor.

2. (currently amended): ~~An automated billing type information providing~~ A system according to claim 1, wherein the telecommunication ~~line~~ link is composed of a LAN system.

3. (currently amended): ~~An automated billing type information providing~~ A system according to claim 1, wherein said monitors are installed in individual homes, and said server for a plurality of homes is provided outside the homes.

4. (currently amended): ~~An automated billing type information providing~~ A system according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of said monitors are installed in a hospital ward, and said server is also installed in the ward.

5. (currently amended): ~~An automated billing type information providing~~ A system according to claim 1, ~~said billing unit is installed together with said monitor on the user's side, and wherein~~ the use charges are paid using a prepaid card.

6. (currently amended): ~~An automated billing type information providing~~ A system according to claim 1, wherein said billing unit is constructed so that the result of the integration are transmitted to said provider through the telecommunication ~~line~~ link, and the user is billed for the use charges based on the results of the integration transmitted to said provider.

7. (currently amended): ~~An automated billing type information providing~~ A system according to claim 6, wherein said provider is connected to a financial institution or a non-bank financial institution,

the data representing the use charges are transmitted to the financial institution or the non-bank financial institution, and the use charges are automatically debited from the user's account.

8. (currently amended): ~~An automated billing type information providing~~ A system according to claim 1, wherein ~~said billing unit is installed together with said monitor on the user's side, and~~ the use charges are paid in cash.

9. (new): An automated billing type system for use with a video and information providing system having a monitor connected to a provider through a telecommunication link via a server and a signal receiving unit for receiving video signals for output to said monitor, said system comprising:

a billing unit proximate to said monitor and said signal receiving unit for receiving a basis for payment from a user, for integrating at least one of Internet use time of the telecommunication link or projection time for which the video signals are projected on said monitor through said signal receiving unit, and for calculating a use charge based on a result of this integration,

wherein a user provides said basis for payment of the use charge to said billing unit and is thereby allowed to utilize the Internet through the telecommunication link and to at least view the video signals on said monitor.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/772,980

10. (new): An automated billing type information providing system according to claim 9, wherein said billing unit is constructed so that the result of the integration are transmitted to said provider through the telecommunication link, and the user is billed for the use charges based on the results of the integration transmitted to said provider.